

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16-19, and 21-96 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1-11 and 23-96 being withdrawn from consideration. Of the remaining claims, Claims 12, 17, and 22 are independent. Claims 15 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and Claims 12-14, 16-19, 21, and 22 have been amended herein.

In view of the amendments above and the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Claims 12-14, 17-19, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,427 (Suzuki). Dependent Claims 15, 16, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0000962 A1 (Rajan). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent Claim 12 is directed to a receiving apparatus including a receiver, first and second decoders, a setter, and a synthesizer. The receiver is arranged to receive image data encoded by MPEG 4, and image data and/or sound data encoded by another coding format. The first decoder is arranged to decode the image data encoded by MPEG 4. The second decoder is arranged to decode the image data and/or sound data encoded by the other coding format. The setter is arranged to set a layout of images represented by a plurality of image data, which are decoded by the first and second decoders, in accordance with the coding formats of the received image and/or sound data. The synthesizer is arranged to synthesize the plurality

of image data and/or sound data decoded by the first and second decoders in accordance with the layout.

The invention, as recited in independent Claim 17, is directed to a receiving method including steps corresponding to the features recited in independent Claim 12. Likewise, independent Claim 22 is directed to a computer program product stored in a computer readable medium including a computer program code for a receiving method including steps corresponding to those recited for the method of Claim 17.

The features recited in the independent claims can be used to achieve a video display layout, such as that shown in Figure 23, in which an MPEG 2 image is inserted into an MPEG 4 image. Moreover, the claimed features of Applicants' invention can be understood with reference at least to the second embodiment discussed in the specification at page 54, line 19 through page 62, line 11.

Applicants submit that the cited patent, taken singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest the features of Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims. Specifically, Suzuki discloses an image signal multiplexing apparatus. The apparatus includes a multiplexer circuit that multiplexes bitstreams (elementary streams (ESs)) and scene descriptors (SD) recorded in a storage device, and object descriptors (ODs) supplied from an object descriptor generator circuit to transmit a multiplexed bitstream. See Suzuki, column 14, lines 11-15.

Rajan, directed to composing and presenting multimedia video programs using the MPEG 4 standard, was cited for, inter alia, disclosing setting a synthetic pattern of the plurality of image data to be synthesized.

Applicants submit that neither Suzuki nor Rajan teaches or suggests receiving image data encoded by MPEG 4, as well as image data and/or sound data encoded by another coding format. Applicants submit that the cited patents do not teach or suggest that both an MPEG 4 stream and an MPEG 2 stream are received, decoded, set in a layout, and synthesized as recited in the independent claims. Moreover, Applicants submit that the cited patents do not teach or suggest setting a layout of the images in accordance with coding formats of the received image data. In Rajan, for example, the command is issued by the user to change a composition form.

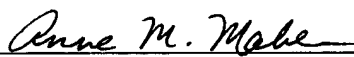
Accordingly, Applicants submit that the invention, as recited in independent Claims 12, 17, and 22, are patentably distinguishable from Suzuki, alone or in combination with Rajan.

Applicants submit that the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above for their respective base claims. In addition, Applicants submit that the dependent claims recite additional features further distinguishing them from the cited art, and respectfully request individual consideration of each dependent claim.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,



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